(c) if so, the number of camels at the disposal of the BSF at present in the border area of Gujarat during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to augment the number of camels in the force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though the use of camels by the BSF personnel is an essential element for the surveillance of the border in Gujarat, Tractors are also being used for border patrolling in Gujarat.

(c) The number of camels at the disposal of BSF during the last three yeas was as under :-

Year	Sanctioned	Actually held
1994	210	186
1995	210	176
1996	105*	96

(d) Deficiency of 9 camels in 1996 is being met by purchase of more camels and sufficient funds have been allotted for this purpose.

*16 tractors with trollys were provided to BSF in liew of 105 camels.

Inland Fishery Marketing Infrastructure

531. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted some projects for approval regarding the strengthening of Inland Fishery Marketing Infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the cost of these projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be accorded approval ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Proposals for establishment of five units of fish marketing at a total cost of Rs. 3.88 crores under the fish marketing scheme were received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in November, 1996. One unit at a cost of Rs. 74 lakhs has been sanctioned in addition to the two fish marketing units sanctioned to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1992-94 at a total cost of Rs. 178 lakhs. In view of the proposals received from the other States, there is no likelihood of sanctioning additional units to the Government of Madhya Pradesh at present.

Project Tiger

532. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have admitted before a Panel that tigers are dying fast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for revamping the 'ProJect Tiger' and for conservation of tiger habitats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there have been recent reports of some poaching of tigers to meet the demand of illegal international trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body. The Government is seized of the situation and has taken adequate steps to meet the challenge and is committed to protect the tiger and its habitats.

(c) The steps taken by the Government are as under :

(i) A 'Tiger Crisis Cell' has been set up in the Ministry

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up 'Special Strike Force' in the Project Tiger areas.

(iv) A protocol has been signed with the Government of Peoples 'Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to shop illegal activities of poaching of tigers, and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body;

(v) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the "Global Tiger Forum" for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and the habitat throughout the range countries.

Dairy Development

533. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :